

# **CALFED BAY-DELTA WATERSHED PROGRAM**

## **BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary**

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) Watershed Work Group met on November 2, 1998, in Modesto. The BDAC Watershed Work Group (Work Group) was created to address the public's request to have more participation in the CALFED Watershed Program (Watershed Program). The Work Group provides a forum for stakeholders covering a broad geographic area and wide array of interests. Attendees of the Work Group meetings have direct interaction with the Watershed Program's Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) and an opportunity to review and comment on Watershed Program draft documents. In addition, the Work Group may provide input to the BDAC on issues related to the Watershed Program.

### **Introductions**

Robert Meacher (BDAC/Regional Council for Rural Counties/Plumas County Board of Supervisor), co-chair of the Work Group, began the meeting with introductions. A list of meeting participants is included (Attachment A). A meeting agenda and sections of the Draft Watershed Program Plan illustrating the primary elements were distributed.

### **CALFED Bay-Delta Program Update**

Steve Ritchie (CALFED Bay-Delta Program) briefly discussed the CALFED schedule. CALFED staff is continuing to work on the preferred alternative and related documents. In December 1998, a revised Phase II Report outlining the preferred alternative will be released for public review along with the revised drafts of the Common Program Plans (Watershed, Ecosystem Restoration, Water Quality, Water Use Efficiency, Levee System Integrity, and Water Transfers). During the 60-day review period, CALFED will again hold public meetings throughout the state to solicit feedback and comments. A Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement and Record of Decision are expected to be finalized by the end of 1999. Stage I implementation actions will begin early 2000.

Mr. Ritchie also announced that Judy Kelly, former Program Manager for the Watershed Program has left the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to pursue a career in the private sector. John Lowrie (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service/CALFED) has assumed the Watershed Program Manager role.

### **Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Program (CMARP) Update**

Ann Dennis (U.S. Geological Survey/CMARP Team) presented an overview of CMARP. The purpose of CMARP is to provide facts and scientific interpretations necessary for implementing the CALFED Program and for evaluating the success of the Program. The objectives of CMARP are to:

- document conditions,
- recognize trends,
- assess causes of observed changes,
- partner with management to undertake adaptive management,
- reduce scientific uncertainties, and
- communicate results to the public.

Monitoring is a key component of CMARP. The monitoring scope includes baseline, trend, effectiveness, compliance/mitigation, and operations monitoring. It was also suggested that validation monitoring be included in this scope to allow for integration between research and monitoring.

CMARP has developed 35 separate working groups to address monitoring issues. A "Watershed Monitoring Team" has been created to work with stakeholders and the IWAT to develop watershed monitoring protocols for the Watershed Program.

CMARP will examine how proposed activities affect the watershed that they are implemented in. Physical data will be obtained and analyzed for all projects; however, it is anticipated that social and economic impacts may be difficult to analyze.

A remark was made by a meeting participant regarding the source of the data. It is important to recognize that monitoring is performed for different reasons and the data acquired may reflect this premise. Furthermore, the notion of scales is also critical to the process. Effectiveness of site-specific projects needs to be addressed at a small scale; likewise, broad projects should be analyzed at a broad scale.

For more information regarding the Watershed Program component of CMARP, contact Ann Dennis at: [ann\\_dennis@usgs.gov](mailto:ann_dennis@usgs.gov)

### **Elements of the Watershed Program**

Dennis Bowker (Napa County RCD/CALFED) led a group discussion on the primary elements of the Watershed Program: Coordination and Assistance, Adaptive Management and Monitoring, Education and Outreach, Integration between Common Programs, and Watershed Processes and Relationships. The purpose of this discussion was to solicit comments on the fundamental ideas of the elements. It was noted that CALFED agencies are also reviewing and providing comments on the elements of the Draft Watershed Program. Therefore, after the agency and stakeholder review period concludes (November 20, 1998), CALFED staff will compile and assess all comments and make revisions to the document accordingly. The following is a summary of the comments received during the meeting.

#### ***Coordination and Assistance***

- Clarification should be made that participation in the Watershed Program is on a voluntary basis. This issue is a concern of both public and private landowners.

- Although it may be efficient to coordinate funding among government agencies and other organizations, it may prevent innovative ideas for new or improved funding programs. In an effort to prevent this, incentives could be provided for new innovations and local creativity.
- The text in the sub-element regarding collaboration with local general plans and regulations insinuates that watershed plans should drive land use decisions. It is the opinion of some that land use decisions should be guided by local government; whereas others feel that watershed plans should be closely integrated into land use decisions. This conflict should be recognized within this sub-element.
- Academia should be included in the list of watershed partnerships.

#### ***Adaptive Management and Monitoring***

- The terms "monitoring," "assessment," and "inventory" should be defined.
- Clarification is needed regarding baseline monitoring. Currently, the language implies that funding would not be available until baseline monitoring is completed by the applicant.
- Recognition should be given to the fact that adaptive management is not always workable; adaptive management needs funding.
- The Watershed Program should not be the sole repository for data of projects implemented through the Watershed Program. Clarify how data can be accessed and by whom.
- Social parameters are subjective matter and should not be addressed in the document. Furthermore, this concept is straying from the main objectives of the CALFED Program.

#### ***Education and Outreach***

- The language in this section reads more "aggressively" than the others with regard to funding activities. Other sections should be amended to reflect the same tone.

#### ***Integration Between Common Programs***

- Language should be included in this section to encourage projects that encompass elements of multiple common programs; i.e., water quality and habitat restoration improvements.
- Clarify that acting as an "active liaison among the common programs" will be performed by a multitude of individuals, not just one person.
- A letter should be written to CALFED on behalf of the Work Group stressing the importance of integration of the common programs. Work Group members should receive a copy of the letter.

#### ***Watershed Processes***

- Human values are a subjective matter and not appropriate to include in the document.
- Include a vision to illustrate the purpose of the activities outlined in this section.
- A description of the basic functions of a watershed should be included.
- This section should be re-written and presented in a more positive manner.

#### **Wrap-up**

The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 20, 1998 in Sacramento.

## *Attachment A*

Name	Organization/Agency	E-mail Address
Barris, Lynn	Butte Environmental Council	lbarris@ecst.scuchico.edu
Boucher, Dave	Friends of the Tuolumne	dboucher@netfeed.com
Bowker, Dennis	Napa County RCD/CALFED Watershed Prgrm	
	naparcd@compuserve.com	
Burke, Steve	Community Resource Center	sburke@ainet.com
Castleberry, Dan	US Fish and Wildlife Service/IWAT	dan_castleberry@fws.gov
Chatigny, Jim	Nevada Irrigation District	
Coburn, John	State Water Contractors	jcoburn@calweb.com
Cooper Carter, Kristin	CSU/Chico Research Fndtn/Envl Res. Prgm	kcoopercarter@csuchico.edu
Cornelius, James	Tetra Tech	cornelj@ttemi.com
Cornwall, Caitlin	Sonoma Ecology Center	sec@vom.com
Curtis, Bill	Northern California Water Agencies	
Dale, Richard	Sonoma Ecology Center	sec@vom.com
Davis, Martha	BDAC/Sierra Nevada Alliance	mlcmartha@aol.com
Dennis, Ann	US Geological Survey	ann_dennis@usgs.gov
Dennis, Tess	California Farm Bureau	tdennis@cfbf.com
Giacomini, Pam	Hat Creek Landowner	
Harthorn, Allen	Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy	
	aharthorn@oavax.csuchico.edu	
Henly, Russ	CA Department of Forestry/IWAT	russ_henly@fire.ca.gov
Jerauld, Frank	Amador RCD - Jackson	
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes/CALFED Watershed Program	maryk@jsanet.com
Lima, Joe	Modesto Irrigation District	joel@mid.org
Macon, Dan	California Farm Water Coalition	dmacon@calweb.com
Madison, Mary	UCD-Environmental Science & Policy	memadison@ucdavis.edu
McElhiney, Mike	USDA - Natural Resource Conservation District	
	michael.mcelhiney@ca.usda.gov	
Meacher, Robert	BDAC/RCRC/Plumas Co. Board of Supervisor	pcbs@psln.com
Mitton, Caroline	Sierra Club	
Miyamoto, Joe	East Bay Municipal Utilities District	miyamoto@ebmud.com
Nakamura, Gary	Shasta-Tehama Bioregional Council	gmnakamura@ucdavis.edu
Nelson, Neal	California Waterfowl Association	ndk@aol.com
Newlin, Vickie	Butte County Water Division	
O'Connor, Dennis	California Research Bureau	doconnor@library.ca.gov
Orr, Regena	Caltrans	regena.m.orr@dot.ca.gov
Osterli, Phil	UC Cooperative Extension	edstanislaus@ucdavis.edu
Ramirez, Tim	Tuolumne River Preservation Trust	tuolumne@igc.apc.org
Randall, Lisa	Caltrans	lisa.randall@dot.ca.gov
Reynolds, Roger	San Joaquin County	
Ritchie, Steve	CALFED Bay-Delta Program	ritchie@water.ca.gov
Sapunor, Mike	City of San Jose Environmental Services	m.sapunor@ci.sj.ca.us
Smith, Lynda	Metropolitan Water District	lsmith@mwd.dst.ca.us

Trott, Chris  
Trojan, Jerry  
Tupper, Julie  
Wills, Leah  
Leah)  
Wollan, Otis

Ogden Energy/CBEA  
Sacramento Regional Co. Sanitation District  
US Forest Service/TWAT  
Plumas Corporation  
Placer County Water Agency

chris\_trott@ogden-energy.com

rfo@calweb.com  
plumasco@psln.com (attn:

otis@foothill.net



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